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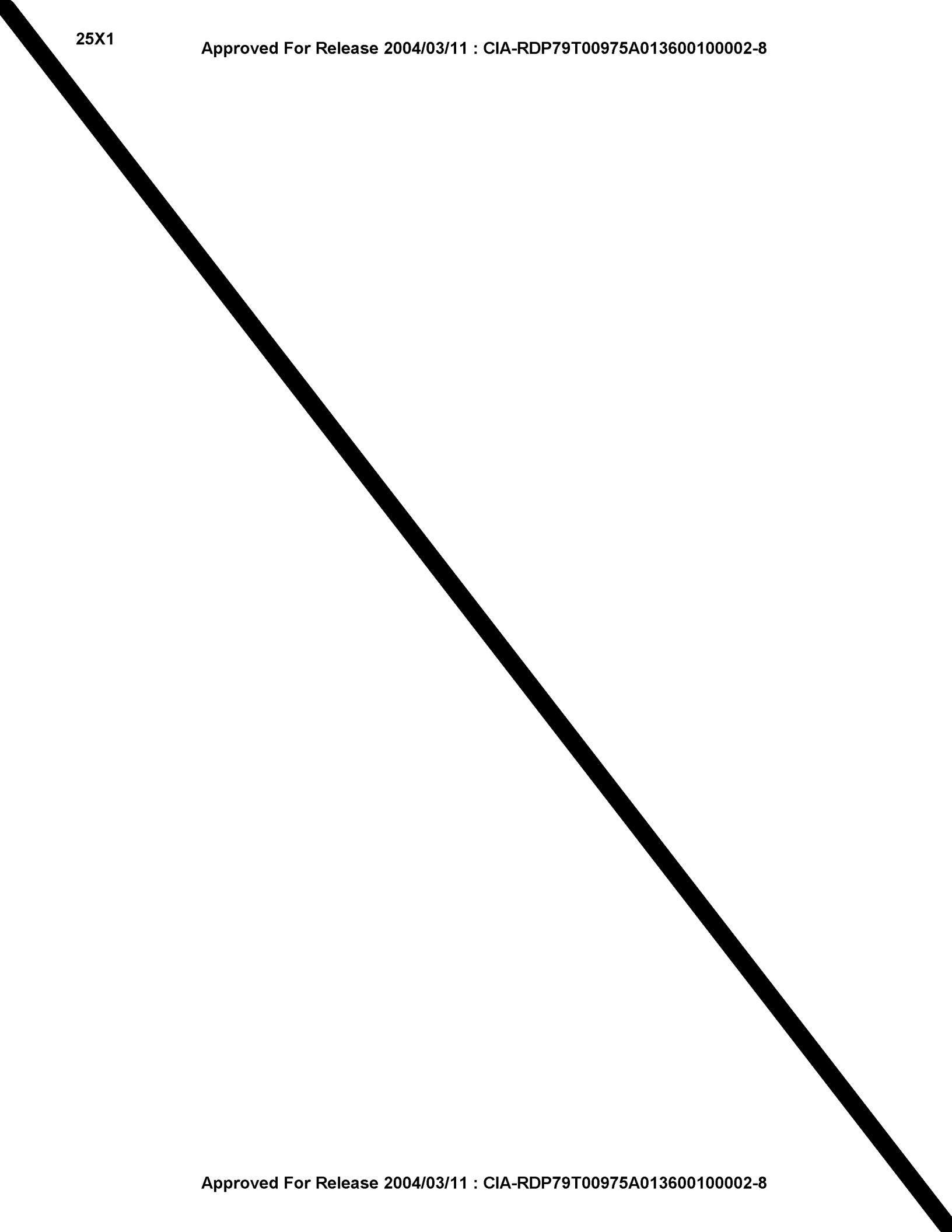

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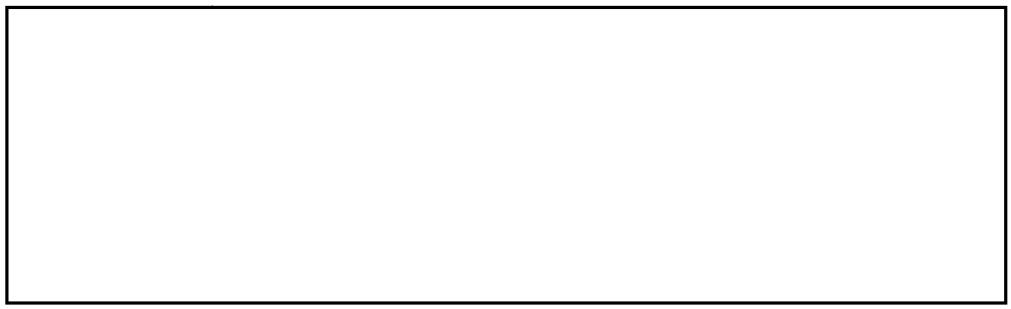

Lebanon: President Hilu has ordered his army to use force to control fedayeen in southern Lebanon. (Page 3)

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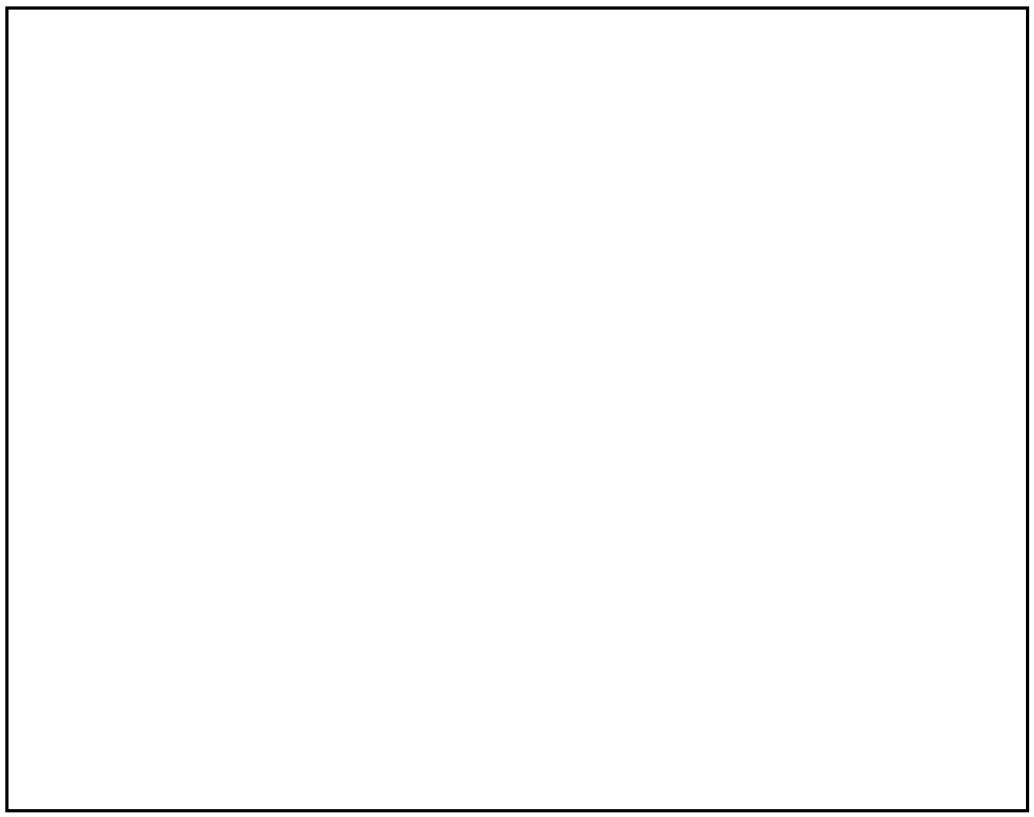

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Lebanon: President Hilu has ordered the Lebanese Army to use whatever force is necessary to control the fedayeen in southern Lebanon and prevent any cross-border operations into Israel.

The Lebanese President told Ambassador Porter on 2 May that he had made these decisions on his own. Hilu said he had no alternative if he was to halt what he called the "Jordanization" of Lebanon--the sharing or ceding of power to the fedayeen.

Hilu said there were 1,600 fedayeen in southern Lebanon and more waiting on the Syrian side of the border. He described this as a "Syrian-inspired invasion" with the objective of taking over all of southern Lebanon. Hilu indicated his belief that there could be no lasting compromise worked out with the fedayeen.

The success of Hilu's decision lies, of course, with the army. Recent reports have suggested that army leaders were beginning to worry that the fedayeen issue may cause trouble in the army as it has in the Christian-Muslim civilian community itself. Hilu, while aware of the dangers, appears to see no alternative but to move determinedly ahead toward a confrontation.

25X1 [redacted] was informed on 3 May that the Lebanese Army had fired on a group of fedayeen in southeast Lebanon. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] seeing on 30 April a truckload of arms, ammunition, and explosives reportedly taken from or abandoned by fedayeen in southern Lebanon, and on 1 May the arrest and jailing of a group of some 30 commandos by the army. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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